

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON
SUBJECT: WHEAT CONFERENCE - DRAFT REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS

REF: (A) GENEVA 4334 (B) GENEVA 4092

1. FINAL SESSION OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE
GRAINS MET MARCH 22 TO CONSIDER CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY
PAPER ON STATUS OF COMMITTEE WORK. AS REPORTED REF A,
WE UNDERSTOOD THAT TABLED PROPOSALS BY EC, ARGENTINA
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WOULD BE ANNEXED TO SUMMARY
STATEMENT AND WOULD BE OFFERED AS SUITABLE BASIS FOR
CONTINUING DISCUSSION DURING POSSIBLE SECOND STAGE
NEGOTIATION.

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2. SUBJECT DRAFT REPORT HOWEVER CONCLUDED WITH PHRASE
"THE PAPER PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE AND SUBCDMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS (REF B)
COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BASIS TO FURTHER EXAMINE THESE
QUESTIONS." CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY PAPER THEREFORE WOULD
SEEM TO HAVE DISMISSED FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF EC
COARSE GRAINS PROPOSAL.

3. U.S. PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH OF CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT GOING ONE STEP FURTHER AND EFFECTIVELY CLEARING THE TABLE OF ALL THREE PROPOSALS THEREBY MINIMIZING SUBSTANTIALLY THE LINKAGE BETWEEN FUTURE COARSE GRAINS DISCUSSIONS AND THE TABLED PROPOSALS. TERMS OF REFERENCE THEREFORE FOR FUTURE COARSE GRAINS DISCUSSIONS WILL BE COMPLETELY FLEXIBLE. U.S. LANGUAGE READS "THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED HAVE OFFERED A USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION BUT SHOULD IN NO WAY PREJUDICE THE FORM OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH NO CONSENSUS EMERGED ON THE MAIN QUESTIONS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE, THERE WAS SOME RECOGNITION THAT SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS IN A BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONTEXT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA."

4. TEXT OF SUBJECT DRAFT REPORT INCLUSIVE OF ORIGINAL LAST PARAGRAPH (IN BRACKETS) WHICH WAS REPLACED BY U.S. LANGUAGE WITHOUT OBJECTION AS FOLLOWS:

DRAFT REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS

AT ITS FIRST MEETING, ON 16 FEBRUARY 1978, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS, OPEN TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE, TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXAMINE COARSE GRAINS UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7 AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

AT ITS FIRST MEETING THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS ELECTED MR. S. LARSON (SWEDEN) AS ITS CHAIRMAN, AND AT ITS THIRD MEETING MR. S. N. GUPTA (INDIA) AND MR. R. G. WRIGHT (CANADA) AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.

IN THE COURSE OF ITS WORK THE COMMITTEE HAD BEFORE IT THREE PAPERS (A) "PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1971, AS EXTENDED" (TD/WHEAT.6/R.1), (B) A STATISTICAL NOTE PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL ON COARSE GRAINS PRODUCTION, TRADE AND PRICES 1972-1977 AND CLOSING STOCKS 1973/74 - 1977/78 (TD/WHEAT.6/EX/C.II/CRP.2), AND (C) ANOTHER SECRETARIAT NOTE ON WHEAT FOR ANIMAL FEED - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (TD/WHEAT.6/EX/C.II/CRP.3). AFTER SOME GENERAL STATEMENTS, DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDED ON THE BASIS OF A PROPOSAL INTRODUCED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AT THE SECOND MEETING ON A "DRAFT COARSE GRAINS TRADE CONVENTION, 1978, IN THE FORM OF PROVISIONS

INTEGRAL WITH THE WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION, 1978" (TD/WHEAT.
6/EX/C.II/CRP.1).

THE COMMITTEE HELD EIGHT MEETINGS AND COMPLETED ITS
WORK ON 22 MARCH 1978.

AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING, ON 27 FEBRUARY, 1978, THE
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS SET UP A SUBCOM-
MITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS TO ELABORATE AN OUTLINE OF THE
GENERAL SCHEME OF AN AGREEMENT. THE COMPOSITION OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE WAS AS FOLLOWS: ARGENTINA, CANADA,
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, EGYPT, FINLAND, INDIA,
JAPAN, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.
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THE SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY MR. LARSON UNTIL ITS THIRD MEETING, ELECTED MR. R. G. WRIGHT (CANADA) AS ITS CHAIRMAN. THE SUBCOMMITTEE HELD SEVEN MEETINGS AND COMPLETED ITS WORK ON 15 MARCH 1978. ON 14 MARCH 1978, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND MEETING ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS.

DISCUSSIONS ALREADY INITIATED IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONTINUED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE. AFTER THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE, DISCUSSIONS CENTRED ON A WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA ON A POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK OF A COARSE GRAINS TRADE CONVENTION (TD/WHEAT.6/EX/C.II/SC/CRP.1). FURTHER TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS PAPER, THE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINED A WORKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS (TD/WHEAT.6/EX/C.II/CRP.4).

(THE POSITIONS OUTLINED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE WENT ALL THE WAY FROM QUESTIONING THE NEED FOR ANY FORM OF AGREEMENT TO EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT WITH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROVISIONS. ALTHOUGH NO CONSENSUS EMERGED ON THE MAIN QUESTIONS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE, THERE WAS SOME RECOGNITION THAT THE PAPER PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL BASIS TO FURTHER EXAMINE THESE QUESTIONS.)

THE POSITION OUTLINED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE WENT ALL THE WAY FROM QUESTIONING THE NEED FOR ANY FORM OF AGREEMENT TO EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN A FORMAL INTERNATIONAL COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT WITH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROVISIONS. THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENTED HAVE OFFERED A USEFUL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION BUT SHOULD IN NO WAY PREJUDICE THE FORM OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH NO CONSENSUS EMERGED ON THE MAIN QUESTIONS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE, THERE WAS SOME RECOGNITION THAT SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS IN A BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL CONTEXT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. VANDEN HEUVEL

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